

Letters

TO THE EDITOR

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Sammy Thomas

DOUBTS ABOUT THE WARREN COMMISSION

I was amused by David W. Belin's description of myself and G. Robert Blakey, chief counsel of the House Select Committee on Assassinations and now professor of law at Notre Dame, as "assassination sensationalists" ("The Warren Commission: Why We Still Don't Believe It," Nov. 20).

Mr. Belin asserts that Jack Ruby's polygraph test cleared him of conspiracy. In fact, a panel of polygraph experts, commissioned by the House Assassinations Committee, found that Ruby's test "was not validly conducted," and, thus, impossible to interpret. The committee determined, moreover, from independent conflicting testimony and records, that Ruby lied at least twice during the polygraph session.

Mr. Belin claims that "an exhaustive investigation by the Warren Commission proved that Jack Ruby was not conspiratorially involved." In fact, Burt Griffin, the commission counsel who investigated Ruby, wrote a memo to the Central Intelligence Agency, in February 1964, requesting information about Ruby's intensive underworld contacts in 1963 and other suspicious involvements. Seven months later, after the commission's investigation had been completed, the C.I.A. responded that it had "no information" regarding Judge Griffin's inquiry. The Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, J. Edgar Hoover, on the other hand, withheld from the commission dozens of documents about suspected mob links to the case. Judge Griffin told me that his study of Ruby had been frustrated by lack of information, time and re-

sources.

Mr. Belin should note that Jack Ruby's alibi for impulsively shooting Lee Harvey Oswald was rejected by Ruby's Dallas trial jury, based on contrary reports of several witnesses. Following his first-degree murder conviction, after repeatedly and unsuccessfully requesting to testify in Washington, Ruby himself hinted to the commission that, if the shooting were

timed so perfectly, "then someone in the Police Department is guilty of giving the information as to when Oswald was coming down." This possibility is ominously credible, given that two police friends of Ruby with key roles in the Oswald transfer (one of whom flunked a polygraph test about it) were closely linked to Joseph Civello, Dallas Mafia boss of that era.

DAVID E. SCHEIM
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JACK BEERS/DALLAS MORNING NEWS

David Belin contends that Americans won't accept the findings of the Warren Commission because they don't have all the facts. The truth

is, we don't want to believe that President John F. Kennedy was killed by Lee Harvey Oswald alone.

To accept that President Kennedy's assassination was the result of the actions of an isolated individual is to diminish the significance of the event. The victim was larger than life; therefore, we want his assassin to be the same.

LORRIE KYLE RAMEY
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David Belin states that "... the conclusions of the autopsy physicians who testified before the Warren Commission have been supported by every panel of physicians that has examined the materials ..." including "the panel appointed by the House Select Committee on Assassinations in 1978. ..." I was a member of the forensic pathology panel appointed by that committee and testified before the full Congressional committee in 1978. I expressed strong disagreement

with the Warren Commission report, especially with regard to the so-called "single bullet theory."

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I do not subscribe to any particular conspiracy theory, nor are my doubts fueled by "speculations" of "sensationalists." I do not doubt Oswald's participation, only his independence. Some of the theories that have been advanced are clearly nonsense. On others, I reserve opinion. The so-called Mafia theory is intriguing, but hardly proven. I would point out, though, that Mr. Belin's reasoning that Jack Ruby would not have attempted a hit where he was "surrounded by police" is unrealistic. When, after Oswald's arrest, would this condition not have pertained?

The primary evidence with which the Warren Report failed to deal consists of the ballistics report, the Zapruder film and the autopsy report, taken in conjunction. So far, I have not heard a convincing defense of the seemingly impossible commission findings concerning these areas of evidence.

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